

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated December 31, 2003, and the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals, have been reviewed and carefully considered. The independent claim, claim 1, has now been amended. Claim 10, before independent, now depends from claim 1. Claims 13-21 have been added. Claims 1-21 are pending in this case. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 6, 9 and 12 is appreciated. Claims 6, 9 and 12 have now been amended as to form, for clarification, but are believed to remain allowable. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7-8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over "SPIE Proceedings series, 1995" by Ahanger et al. ("Ahanger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,168 to Altunbasak et al. ("Altunbasak").

Claim 1 has now been amended for clarity, particularly with respect to the flexibility of the present descriptor. Support for the amendment of claim 1 is found in the original claims 1 and 6, and, in the specification, at page 14, lines 8-16.

Claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A descriptor, embodied within a computer-readable medium, said descriptor being configured to represent, from a video indexing viewpoint, motions of a camera or any kind of observer or observing device, said descriptor being configured for flexibility with respect to how many frames are to be retrieved from a database, and, in particular, to cover the case of one frame, configured to represent the motions within any one frame of a video sequence, and, to cover the case of more than one frame, configured to represent any series comprised of a plurality of frames of the video sequence, the motions represented in said descriptor comprising, for said any one frame and for said series, respectively, . . .

Ahanger, by contrast, fails to disclose or suggest a descriptor with the “flexibility” of the descriptor of the present claim 1.

Ahanger also lacks disclosure or suggestion of the histogram of claim 1.

Altunbasak discloses a histogram, but uses the histogram only to decide which video sequences to index in building its database.

It is accordingly unclear how any descriptor that might be implied from Ahanger would be modified, in view of Altunbasak, to resemble claim 1 of the present invention. It is also unclear what motivation would apply for such a modification.

For at least the above reasons, Ahanger and Altunbasak, alone or in combination, fail to render obvious the present invention as recited in claim 1 as amended.

Support for the amendment of claim 10 is found in the specification, e.g., page 14, lines 8-16.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ahanger in view of Altunbasak and Miyatake.

Miyatake operates by correlating the “displacement between frames” (Summary of the Invention: col. 2, lines 37-38), and does not disclose or suggest a descriptor for a single frame. For at least this reason, Miyatake fails to compensate for the shortcomings of Ahanger and Altunbasak.

For at least this reason, the proposed combination of prior art references fails to render obvious the invention as recited in claim 2.

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ahanger in view of Altunbasak and Jeannin.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1. Jeannin is directed to estimating motion between segmented images, but cannot make up for the above-described deficiencies in Ahanger and Altunbasak.

As to the other rejected claims, each depends from a respective base claim and is deemed to be patentable over the cited prior art at least due to its dependency from its base claim.

New claims 13, 17-19 and 21 find support in the specification (e.g., page 14, lines 8-16).

New claims 14 and 15 find support in original claim 6.

New claim 16 finds support in the specification (e.g., page 5, line 4).

New claim 20 finds support in the specification (e.g., page 5, lines 18-24).


For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

A check for \$50.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee for adding one claim in excess of 20.

Respectfully submitted,

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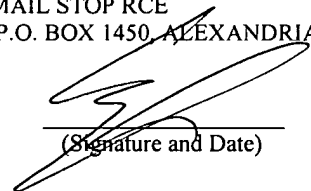

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